

Dublin May 25. 1861

Dear Mr May

Your letter arrived yesterday exactly in time to be too late for the monthly advocates. I am particularly sorry because you tell what I wanted to know - how the Abolitionists in Britain regard the impending War. I could not have known from any previous knowledge that there would have been so warlike, however ready they might very properly be to give the fully credit for any extent of villainy. Still it looks odd that you should be so zealous for the Union, seeing that it is for the Union in its material sense the man of the people are so anxious about. I am quite of your mind that the system of chattel slavery has got its deathblow - its prestige is at an end - and under not conceivable circumstances can it ever regain its old ascendancy in the national councils. But the people do not mean this - yet. And as to reestablishing the old Union of 36 States, I imagine this to be as impossible as the restoration of the Slave power. If you consider the truth which can you do with the Slave States? Considering the previous characters of the people - the uncultured & semibarbarous

condemners of the country, and the hatred
with which the South regards the Free States
I fancy you will find the same sentiment
not without keeping. As far as at present
appears, I fear you will have a long, costly
& bloody struggle. Nevertheless I expect
as soon as any great letting of Southern
blood takes place, Slave property will
immediately undergo an enormous depre-
ciation. What can such people as General
Butler look for in restoring fugitives to
the service of their masters. He will never
conciliate the Lords of the South, which he
deprives the Southern troops of valuable &
faithful auxiliaries in this deadly &
dangerous struggle.

As to what you propose about my acting
as the agent of whatever money S. F. may
collect or be the means of obtaining, I
am entirely at your service. It gives me
little trouble & very great pleasure to be
of any assistance to you in any way.
Indeed it is the only particular in which
I look on myself as of any use in the
world. I often think it odd that I should
be a ~~useful~~ medium of intercourse
between the American abolitionists &
their friends & well wishers here.

From every letter I learn for the first time that
S. T. ~~was~~ is in receipt of a salary from you.
It is a remarkable thing to see a man with
his gifts and powers so nearly in the
position of a pauper. When Mrs. Estlin was
concerned about the life of Brown that
my wife & I are compiling I suggested S. T. to
help & surrounded him on his behalf. He en-
gaged his colleagues but asked for £2 per week
besides what the work was in London, for
the maintenance of his family. This was
so indefinite for it might last the 800th day
that nothing came of it. The misery is
that he cannot live within his means. He
has no idea of economy such as all plain
people must practice. The result is he is
always in a L. O. O. L. He would be if he had
ten times as much. When last in Dublin
he went into debt to me for several pounds &
I will never see my money again. As far as
I know he is not trusted or respected as one
would wish that one with such talents &
excellent noble qualities should be. This is
for yourself - I write to put you in possession
of how matters stand respecting him. I have
never had any quarrel with him in any
way. But it is right that you should know
the truth.

I am glad you have got the papers from Redpath,
and hope you will be able to call something
out of them - if it was only to give some use
of reason & morality to the little books, which
we I hope contain the essence of Redpath's
topography - here the bel des dach - & then the
conversations of Mr Kim & Tilton with Mrs
Brown, & I. Mr. W. L.'s account of the funeral.
I will be glad to see the "Echo" but do not
anticipate much from them. The addition
that Mrs Childs sent was most acceptable &
I am much obliged to you both for them.

About Thomas Spenser I thank you heartily
for the trouble you have taken. He is probably
dead. One of his brothers - the elder one - enters
into his share - & as he has no son, the
property will then devolve to a younger brother,
this son will have power to dispose of it as
he pleases. If my mother had been a gen-
tleman instead of a lady, & I had ~~not~~ been
the gentleman's son, I would have been
the lucky inheritor - instead of toiling
away here in this dingy printing office.
But then I might never have known my
Boston friends which would have been a
far greater loss, as matters stand

Having since then heard that Mrs Merrens
thru her had full notice of emancipation with
Barnum & I wrote to her many weeks
ago asking if she could let me have them
for our little compilation - but though it
is five weeks & nearer to time I write I
have heard nothing. That probably she
was annoyed at my fresh importunities

Enclosed is a letter that came a good
while since from my sister in Melbourne
to Mrs Isaac Pugh (Sarah's sister in law)
who showed her kindness when my sister
was a stranger in Philadelphia some
years ago. Will you be so good as to
have it directed to Sarah's care at her
address.

I saw a letter from brother Jeffreys a
few days since to Miss Estlin. She was in
the thick of the London disputation & was
tired of them. Longing to be in America in
the capture of the fugitive. She had debated
Sir Edward Lytton at his friends least at
Knobworth, had dined with Dickens, &c. &c. &c.
and was every where treated with the hospi-
tality & respect she so richly deserves.

Ever yours truly

Richd D Webb

Letter of John Brown?

Call was procured for me from Westphal & elsewhere a characteristic anti-fugitive

ms. B.1.6 v.15, p.67